GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:309
ANSWERED ON:11.07.2014
EXPORT AND IMPORT OF COMMODITIES
Ahmed Shri Sultan

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum and value of export and import of the country during each of the last three years and the current year, country and commodity-wise;

(b) whether the Government has taken note that export from the country is continuously decreasing while there is an increase in import of commodities and if so, the facts thereof along with the reasons therefor;

(c) the measures initiated by the Government to lower dependence on import along with the guidelines issued/proposed to be issued to secure trade surplus;

(d) whether depreciation of Rupee in comparison to Dollar and Euro has adversely affected the exports from the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard along with measures to compensate the losses being incurred from exports?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) The value of export and import of the country during each of the last three years and the current year are given below:

(Value in US$ Billions)

Year	Exports	Imports
2011-12	306.0	489.3
2012-13	300.4	490.7
2013-14	313.5	450.6
2013-14 (April-May 2014)	49.3	86.3
2014-15 (April-May 2014) (P)	53.6	75.0

Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata (P): Proviosnal

The details of country wise Exports and Imports, are available in the DGCI&S publication in CD form namely 'Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India' Vol. I (Exports) & Vol.II (Imports). Such CD's are regularly sent to Parliament Library by DGCI&S, Kolkata and may be accessed there. CD's of financial year ending March 2014 are yet to be released..

(b) Since last two decades, exports from the country are continuously increasing except for the years 1998-99, 2001-02, 2009-10 and 2012-13. However, imports have also been increasing over the same period except for the years 2009-10 and 2012-13. While Exports of 17.8 US $ billion in 1991-92 have risen to 313.5 US $ billion in 2013-14, the imports have also risen from 19.4 US $ billion in 1991-92 to 450.6 US $ billion in 2013-14.

(c) to (e) A general trend of depreciation of Rupee in comparison to Dollar and Euro has been observed over the past few years, however, such depreciation results in making the exports more competitive. In order to boost exports and reduce imports Government has taken a number of measures, which inter alia include the following;

(i) Compression in import of gold and silver and non-essential items including hike in custom tariffs and administrative measures like linking gold imports with the gold exports under 80-20 scheme, whereby 20 per cent of the imported gold has to be channelized for gold exports.

(ii) Two percent Interest Subvention Scheme, which was available for certain export sectors viz. Handicrafts, Carpet, Handlooms, SMEs, Readymade Garments, Processed Agriculture Products and Toys, was widened to include 134 tariff lines of Engineering Sector w.e.f 1st January, 2013.

(iii) Government enhanced the rate of Interest Subvention from 2% to 3 % with effect from 1.8.2013.

(iv) As part of product diversification and market diversification strategy, 47 new items were added to Market Linked Focus Product Scheme (MLFPS) and 122 new items were added to the Focus Product Scheme (FPS). Government also notified 153 hi-tech products on 10.7.2013 under Focus Product Scheme making them eligible for duty script at the rate of 2 %.

(v) Apart from above, various other measures were also taken to increase exports as part of the Annual Supplement to the Foreign Trade Policy (2009-14) announced on 18.4.2013.